

15 Thriving Indicators

Theoretical Measurement Markers of Thriving in Adolescence



Search Institute has developed a list of 15 "thriving indicators," or constructive behaviors, postures, and commitments that societies value and need in youth. These indicators serve as a way of evaluating and analyzing program success based on positive outcomes, instead of negative ones; in other words, they allow us to talk about what's *right* with kids, instead of what's "wrong" with them.

Elements of Thriving	Measurement Markers of Thriving
1. YOUNG PERSON	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Spark identification and motivation. Young person can name, describe interests and sparks that give them energy and purpose, and is motivated to develop their sparks.2. Positive emotionality. Young person is positive and optimistic.3. Openness to challenge and discovery. Young person has intrinsic desire to explore new things, and enjoys challenges.4. Hopeful purpose. Young person has a sense of purpose and sees self as on the way to a happy and successful future.5. Moral and prosocial orientation. Young person sees helping others as a personal responsibility, and lives up to values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring.6. Spiritual development. Young person affirms importance of a sacred or transcendent force and the role of their faith or spirituality in shaping everyday thoughts and actions.
2. YOUNG PERSON'S DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXTS	<p>Opportunities & Supports. Young person experiences chances to grow and develop their sparks, as well as encouragement and support in pursuing their sparks, from multiple life contexts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Family Opportunities & Supports8. Friends Opportunities & Supports9. School Opportunities10. School Supports11. Neighborhood Opportunities & Supports12. Youth Organizations Opportunities & Supports13. Religious Congregations Opportunities & Supports
3. YOUNG PERSON'S ACTIVE ROLE IN SHAPING CONTEXTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">14. Youth Action to develop and pursue sparks. Young person seeks and acts on adult guidance, studies or practices, and takes other actions to develop their sparks and fulfill their potential.
4. DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXTS ACT ON THE YOUNG PERSON	<ol style="list-style-type: none">15. Frequency of Specific Adult Actions. How often adults do concrete things to motivate, enable, and push young people to develop their sparks and connect them to others who can help.

Additional Constructs Measured in Thriving Orientation Survey

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES	<p>Life satisfaction. Young person feels good about their life.</p> <p>Positive health perceptions. Young person feels strong and healthy.</p> <p>Contribution to social good. Young person volunteers or does things to make their world a better place.</p> <p>School success. Young person earns a B or higher average in school.</p> <p>Values diversity. Young person considers it important to know people of different races.</p> <p>Leadership. Young person has been a leader in a group or organization in the last 12 months.</p>
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